

C02029: Doctor of Philosophy

CRICOS Code: 00099F

Subject Code: C02029

February 2020

*Resource Allocation and Optimal Scheduling
of Virtual Network Functions in Software
Defined Networks*

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*Resource Allocation and Optimal Scheduling
of Virtual Network Functions in Software
Defined Networks*

*A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of*

Doctor of Philosophy

by

Mahmoud Gamal Ahmed Bekhit

to

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February 2020

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

I, *Mahmoud Gamal Ahmed Bekhit* declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy, in the *School of Electrical and Data Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology* at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise reference or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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ABSTRACT

One of the main challenges that faces the Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) deployment is to optimize the resource allocation of demanded network services in the NFV environment. In this study, new optimization models have been developed to find the near to optimal mapping and scheduling for the incoming Virtual Network Function (VNF) requests. The optimization models are formulated as a multi-objective problem in general where different objectives and constraints can be defined depending on the considered scenarios. In the first formulation, three objectives have been defined, namely, maximizing the number of accepted incoming service requests, optimizing link utilization and minimizing the overall processing time of service requests. The second development includes an optimization problem that considers the nonuniform arrival of the incoming service requests periodically. This optimization problem has been done by maximizing the number of accepted service requests, minimizing the number of bottleneck links, the overall processing time. In the third development, the optimization problem considers the expiry time for those incoming service requests to be processed in the VMs. Moreover, the model considers the uniform and non-uniform arrival of the incoming service requests. Four different objectives and five constraints have been considered to solve this optimization problem. Particularly, the model aims to maximize the acceptance rate, minimize the number of bottleneck links, the overall processing time and the relative processing time. In the fourth scenario, the optimization model has been developed to achieve three objectives functions, namely, minimizing the transmission delays occurring

in every link, minimizing the processing capacity for every VM and minimizing the processing delay at every VM. The optimization model developed in the fifth formulation minimizes the processing time for every accepted service request, and at the same time maximizes the number of accepted service requests. All five scenarios have been treated as both single-objective and multi-objective optimization problems, where two different evolutionary algorithms based on a genetic algorithm have been applied for solving the resulting optimization problems. Via numerical simulations, it is shown that for the first three scenarios, the proposed algorithms solve the problem efficiently and converge to near to the optimal solution. Regarding the latter two scenarios, the numerical evaluations provide an evidence that the algorithms developed in this manuscript are scalable and they outperform the evolutionary algorithms proposed in the literature, namely genetic bandwidth link allocation (GA-BA) and genetic non-bandwidth link allocation (GA-NBA) algorithms.

DEDICATION

*To My Loving Parents, My Lovely Wife, My Future Son, My Beautiful Brothers,
My Supportive Family in law, My Amazing Friends And To Everyone That Reads
This ...*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my main supervisor and advisor A/Prof. Mehran Abolhasan for his motivation, suggestions, patience and for his limitless support which have guided me to overcome challenges more successfully. His guidance helped me several times in conducting my research, on writing my thesis and on presenting the research studies as clearly as possible. I am grateful for his effort for reviewing my writing and correcting the mistakes that have led me to publish my research in high-quality conferences and journals. It is a great honor and pleasure to work under his supervision and guidance.

Besides my main supervisor, I would like to thank my co-supervisor A/Prof. Justin Lipman, and external supervisor Dr. Wei Ni from Data61, CSIRO for their experienced supervision, valuable comments, constant encouragement and for their help to get results of better quality during my PhD period.

I would like to express my special thanks to my co-supervisor Dr. Saber Jafarizadeh for his genuine support, motivation and wonderful help in my research study. His vision leads me to extend my research work to solve a diverse of exciting real problems, he has taught me the way to formulate the mathematical model perfectly, provide a real example to explain the research problem clearly.

My genuine thanks also goes to Professor Tapabrata Ray from University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Dr Ahmed Salah from Hunan University for offering me all information that I need for my research method.

I extend my gratitude to to all my friends and staff who have helped me at University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Australia. Specially, Abdelwahed Khamis, Firas Al-Doghman, Ahmed Fathy, Mohammed Jaddoa, Ahmed Saadeh, for their help and support in overcoming numerous obstacles I have been facing through my research.

A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents, Gamal and Masrya whose words of encouragement and support, whose a look of happiness in their faces is my inspiration and who I work to make them be proud of me. Thank you for being my champions throughout the past 30 years.

I extend my gratitude to my lovely wife who support, encourage and always beside me facing hard times. She has been a constant source of support and encouragement also for her selfless love, care and dedicated efforts which contributed a lot for the completion of my thesis. Also, I would like to thank my future son who become the source of my motivation to work harder.

Special thanks to my lovely brothers, especially Ahmed for the great support and always standing beside me, Mostafa and Mohamed, I am truly thankful for having you in my life.

Thanks to my family-in-law especially, H.Hatta rahman and Hj. Suraida for everything you have done for the love and support. Thanks for always being there for me and help me with the best they know.

Thanks to my motivation Professors and Colleagues in Egypt for the generous care, encouragement and beautiful support during these years of my study both academically and officially.

Lastly, I would like to express my special thanks to all my amazing friends. I can't thank him enough for everything that they have done for making this work a possible one. your helping hand paved a way to the completion of this thesis.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Related to the PhD Thesis :

1. Gamal, M., Abolhasan, M., Lipman, J., Liu, R.P. and Ni, W., 2018, *Multi Objective Resource Optimisation for Network Function Virtualisation Requests.*, Proc. 26th International Conference on Systems Engineering (**ICSEng 2018**), pp. 1-7, Sydney, Australia, 2018. IEEE.
2. Gamal, M., Jafarizadeh, S., Abolhasan, M., Lipman, J. and Ni, W., 2019, *Mapping and Scheduling for Non-Uniform Arrival of Virtual Network Function (VNF) Requests*, Proc. 90th Vehicular Technology Conference (**VTC2019-Fall**), Hawaii, USA, 2019. IEEE.
3. Gamal, M., Abolhasan, M., Jafarizadeh, S., Lipman, J. and Ni, W., 2019, *Mapping and Scheduling of Virtual Network Functions using Multi Objective Optimization Algorithm*, Proc. 19th International Symposium on Communications and Information Technologies (**ISCIT 2019**), Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, 2019. IEEE.
4. Gamal, M., Jafarizadeh, S., Abolhasan, M., Lipman, J. and Ni, W., *Resource Allocation and Optimization Scheduling for Virtual Network Function Requests*. IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology (**IEEE TVT**). (***under review***).
5. Gamal, M., Jafarizadeh, S., Abolhasan, M., Lipman, J. and Ni, W., *Optimal Mapping and Scheduling for Virtual Network Function in Software Defined Networks*.

The International Journal of Computer and Telecommunications Networking
(Computer Networks). (*under review*).

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Table 1: NOMENCLATURE

NFV	Network Functions Virtualization
SDN	Software Defined Networking
VM	Virtual Machine
NFV-RA	NFV Resource Allocation
ETSI	European Telecom Standards Institute
HVS	High Volume Server
NS	Network Service
VNF	Virtual Network Function
SFC	Service function chaining
TSP	Telecom Service Provider
NFV-MANO	NFV Management and Orchestration
ILP	Integer Linear Programming
NF	Network Function
SDN	Software Defined Networking
VNFs-SCH	VNFs Scheduling
VNF-FGE	VNF Forwarding Graph Embedding
VNF-FG	Virtual Network Function Forwarding Graph
VNFs-CC	VNFs Chain composition
DPI	Deep Packet Inspector
GA	Genetic Algorithm
DPI	Deep packet inspection
VNFR	Virtual Network Functions Request
GA-BA	Genetic Bandwidth Link Allocation
GA-NBA	Genetic Non-Bandwidth Link Allocation
NS	Network Service
NAT	Network Address Translation
VPNs	Virtual private networks
PGWs	Packet Data Network Gateways
IMSs	IP multimedia subsystems
LDMOAD/DE	The lowest delay multi-objective evolutionary algorithm based on decomposition algorithm.
RU-MOEA/D	Resource Utilization Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm based on Decomposition
SM-MOEA/D	scheduling and mapping multi-objective evolutionary algorithm based on decomposition
SM-NSGA-II	scheduling and mapping Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II
NFVI	Network Function Virtualization Infrastructure
NFV-MANO	NFV Management and Orchestration
TSP	telecommunications service provider
VNE	virtual network embedding
VNF-FGs	Virtual Network Function Forwarding Graphs
SFC	Service Function Chaining
SFs	service functions
IETF	The Internet Engineering Task Force
MIQCP	mixed integer quadratically constrained program

